

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed 02 March 2010 has been accepted and entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-6, 8-27, 29-39, 44-45, 47, and 49-51 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, the prior art of record fails to disclose or reasonably suggest, along with the other claimed limitations, a system for optical tomography comprising, namely: wherein an image processor comprises a diffusion equation processor configured to use a diffusion equation having a modified diffusion coefficient selected in accordance with the propagation of visible light in the diffuse medium throughout a substantial portion of the visible wavelength range, wherein the modified diffusion coefficient has the claimed form.

Regarding claims 2-6, 8-20, 44, 47, and 50, the claims are found allowable due to their dependence upon an already allowed claim and lacking any technical errors.

Regarding claim 21, the prior art of record fails to disclose or reasonably suggest, along with the other claimed limitations, a method of optical tomography comprising, namely: wherein a light propagation model is generated in accordance with a solution to a diffusion equation having a modified diffusion coefficient selected in accordance with the propagation of visible light in the diffuse medium throughout a substantial portion of the visible wavelength range, wherein the modified diffusion coefficient has the claimed form.

Regarding claims 22-27, 29-39, 45, 49, and 51, the claims are found allowable due to their dependence upon an already allowed claim and lacking any technical errors. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments, see pages 10-13 of the amendment, filed 02 March 2010, with respect to claims 1, 21, and their dependants have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of the claims have been withdrawn.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

2003/0124244 A1 – Freeman discloses a method of analyzing coatings that uses a diffusion equation similar to the instant application's.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David S. Baker whose telephone number is (571) 272-6003. The examiner can normally be reached on MTWRF 12:00p - 8:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David P. Porta can be reached on (571) 272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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